

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 /065 W
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R 231755Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4828
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1344

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GY
SUBJECT: JAGAN'S BOYCOTT OF ENMORE MARTYRS CEREMONY SIGNALS
RETURN TO CONFRONTATIONAL POLITICS

SUMMARY: PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) LEADER CHEDDI
JAGAN'S WALKOUT AND BOYCOTT OF JUNE 16 CEREMONY TO HONOR
SUGAR WORKERS KILLED BY COLONIAL POLICE (ENMORE MARTYRS)
MARKED FURTHER INTENSIFICATION OF CONFRONTATIONAL POLITICS
BETWEEN THE PPP AND THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC).
JAGAN'S ACTION RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY AND FOCUSED
ATTENTION ON HIS CRITICISM OF PNC CONCEPT OF ITSELF AS
THE PARAMOUNT PARTY. PNC ATTACKED JAGAN'S WALKOUT AS
TENDING TO DIVIDE WORKING CLASS, WEAKEN NATION, AND
THEREFORE UNPATRIOTIC. THIS INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC
SIGNIFIES FURTHER EROSION OF THE "CRITICAL SUPPORT" CON-
CEPT AND A RETURN TO POLITICS AS USUAL. THE ACTIVE
EFFORTS OF THE TWO PARTIES TO CREATE A MODUS VIVENDI OR
FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH NATIONAL UNITY COULD BE ACHIEVED
ENDED ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO. END SUMMARY.
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1. JUNE 16 WALKOUT OF PPP LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN FROM
ANNUAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS CEREMONY HONORING ENMORE
MARTYRS MARKED FURTHER INTENSIFICATION OF CONFRONTATIONAL
POLITICS BETWEEN THE PPP AND PNC. THE PPP'S PARTY NEWS-
PAPER, "MIRROR," CHARACTERIZED THE WALKOUT AS PROTEST
OVER ALLEGED USE OF PNC FLAG TO COVER THE PLAQUE WHICH

WAS TO BE UNVEILED AT CEREMONY. PPP PROTESTED PNC DOMINATION OF CEREMONY AS PART OF ITS CONCEPT OF PARAMOUNTCY OF PARTY.

2. PNC ORGAN "NEW NATION" OF JUNE 19 CORRECTLY POINTED OUT THAT COVERING WHICH DRAPED PLAQUE PRIOR TO UNVEILING WAS NOT PARTY FLAG, ALTHOUGH IT CARRIED THREE OF FOUR COLORS OF PNC FLAG. NEW NATION CRITICIZED JAGAN'S BOYCOTT OF ENMORE MARTYRS COMMEMORATION AS ACTION TENDING TO DIVIDE WORKING PEOPLE AND MAINTAINED THAT ANYONE WHO SEEKS TO WEAKEN NATIONAL WILL TO SURVIVE "FORFEITS ANY CLAIM TO BEING A PATRIOT."

3. JUNE 19 ANALYSIS IN "GUYANA CHRONICLE" BY ITS CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT M. HAMALUDIN STATED THAT JAGAN'S WALKOUT KILLED MUCH OF REMAINING HOPE FOR RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN PNC AND PPP. HAMALUDIN SUGGESTED THAT PPP IS PREPARING TO MAKE ATTACK ON CONCEPT OF PARAMOUNTCY OF PARTY A PILLAR OF ITS ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

4. JAGAN'S BOYCOTT OF CEREMONIES WAS GIVEN SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE BECAUSE EVENT WAS ORGANIZED ON NON-PARTY BASIS BY TUC AND BECAUSE PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AND CHEDDI JAGAN WERE SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS CROWD. IN HIS SPEECH REPORTED IN JUNE 17 CHRONICLE, BURNHAM MAINTAINED THAT SINCE

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NATIONALIZATION GOG HAS TAKEN STEPS TO IMPROVE LOT OF SUGAR WORKERS WHICH INCLUDE HIGHER PENSIONS, OFF SEASON WORK, IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS, AND WORKER PARTICIPATION. BURNHAM PLACED ENMORE MARTYRS IN PERSPECTIVE OF WORLDWIDE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE.

5. COMMENT: SYMBOLICALLY, JAGAN'S BOYCOTT OF ENMORE MARTYRS CEREMONY INDICATES THAT PPP IS NO LONGER PREPARED TO GIVE EVEN SEMBLANCE OF COOPERATION WITH PNC. PNC CONCEPT OF PARAMOUNTCY OF PARTY HAS BEEN UNDER ATTACK BY PPP AND OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND DISRIMINATORY FOR OVER A YEAR, BUT JAGAN HAS NOW FOCUSED ATTENTION ON IT AS CAMPAIGN ISSUE. THIS HAS ALSO HIGHLIGHTED CENTRAL QUESTION OF MECHANICS OF POWER SHARING WHICH DIVIDES PNC AND PPP. ON OTHER HAND, BY LABELLING PPP OPPOSITION TACTICS UNPATRIOTIC, PNC APPEARS TO QUESTION LEGITIMACY OF ITS OPPOSITION. IT MAY BE SEEKING BASIS FOR POSSIBLE STRONG ACTION AGAINST PPP AT SOME FUTURE TIME. THE BITTER AFTERTASTE LEFT BY THE FAILURE OF NATIONAL UNITY TALKS FOUR MONTHS AGO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO INFLATED RHETORIC AND ACCUSATIONS BY BOTH PARTIES AND PRODUCED A VOLATILE POLITICAL CLIMATE.

HOWEVER, THESE TACTICS HAVE CHARACTERIZED PAST ELECTION
CAMPAIGNS, AND SITUATION HERE IS REGARDED BY MOST
OBSERVERS AS POLITICS AS USUAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) LEADER C
TAGS: PINT, GY
To: STATE
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